GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4445
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
HEPATITIS-B VACCINE
PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not procuring Hepatitis-B Vaccine from available sources within the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are procuring Hepatitis-B Vaccine under the GAVI programme from UNICEF at exorbitant prices;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the names of manufacturers of Hepatitis-B Vaccine in India as approved by World Health Organisation (WHO);

(f) whether Government would procure this Vaccine from them thus saving huge foreign exchange; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) to (g) For the pilot project of introduction of Hepatitis B Vaccine in slums of selected cities and districts during 2002-04, vaccine is being provided as commodity assistance free by Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI). UNICEF is the designated agency for procurement and supply of vaccine to the Government of India. As per information received from UNICEF,(i) the vaccine is bought by UNICEF through international bidding process, (ii) the suppliers recommended are a group of more than eight from different countries approved by WHO, in a defined qualification process known to all domestic Hepatitis B Vaccine manufacturers(iii) the international price of Hepatitis B Vaccine are as low as $ 0.32 per dose which compare very favorably with the rate of domestic manufacturers. M/S Shantha Bio-tech, Hyderabad is the only Indian manufacturer of Hepatitis B vaccine approved by W.H.O. The Government of India does not procure Hep. B Vaccine for any other programme.